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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,319	07/02/2001	Toshiaki Shinohara	210314US2	6650

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DILINH P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/895,319

Applicant(s)

SHINOHARA, TOSHIAKI

Examiner

DiLinh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 and 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground (s) that Group I and II are neither independent nor distinct and claims 1-11 should be examined together in the same application. This is not found persuasive because Group I and II are patentably independent and distinct. Unpatentability of Group I invention would not necessarily imply unpatentability of the Group II invention and otherwise. Groups I and II have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification. Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to a semiconductor device. Group II, claims 9-11, drawn to a method for making a semiconductor device.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase: "...said bonding material opposite said bonding material..." is not understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noda et al. (U.S. Pat. 5767573).

Noda et al. disclose a semiconductor device (figs. 1-2, column 8, lines 40 et seq.) comprising :

a semiconductor element 101;
a lead frame 103 having a first surface for mounting the semiconductor element thereon, and a second surface opposite from the first surface;
a circuit pattern layer 106 provided on the second surface of the lead frame;
an insulation layer 105 provided on the layer 106 opposite the lead frame; and
a solder layer (SD) between the second surface of the lead frame and the layer 106, wherein the solder layer (SD) being better in heat conduction than the insulation layer.

- Regarding claim 2, Noda et al. disclose the circuit pattern layer 106 is disposed in opposed relation to the semiconductor element.
- Regarding claim 3, in so far as it is understood, Noda et al. disclose the circuit pattern layer 106 has a wider surface than the solder layer (SD).

- Regarding claim 4, Noda et al. disclose the semiconductor element includes a plurality of semiconductor elements 101a, 101b and 102, and wherein the circuit pattern layer is separate for each insulated unit between the semiconductor elements, and is provided in corresponding relation to at least one of the semiconductor elements.
- Regarding claim 5, Noda et al. disclose a molding resin MR package for sealing the semiconductor element, the lead frame and the circuit pattern while uncovering a bottom surface of the insulation layer, and wherein the insulation layer is better in heat conduction than the resin package (fig. 1, column 8, lines 51-56).
- Regarding claim 6, Noda et al. disclose the insulation layer comprises resin and filler components (column 8, lines 51-56).
- Regarding claim 7, Noda et al. disclose the circuit pattern has a first surface and a second surface, wherein the first surface of the circuit pattern is closer, as viewed in the vertical direction, to the lead frame than the second surface of the circuit pattern, and wherein the solder layer lies between the second surface of the lead frame and the first surface of the circuit pattern.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (fig. 8) in view of Noda et al.

Noda et al. disclose the claimed invention except for an insulation space between the circuit pattern layer and a third surface of lead frame.

Applicant Admitted Prior Art (fig. 8) disclose the semiconductor device comprising the lead frame, wherein the lead frame has a third surface, and wherein the third surface is closer, as viewed in the vertical direction, to the semiconductor element than is the second surface to define an insulation space between the metal block and the third surface. However, Applicant Admitted Prior Art fails to disclose a bonding material between the second surface of the lead frame and the metal block.

Noda et al. disclose a semiconductor device (figs. 1-2, column 8, lines 40 et seq.) comprising: a solder layer (SD) between the second surface of the lead frame and the layer 106, wherein the solder layer (SD) being better in heat conduction than the insulation layer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (fig. 8) to better secure the chip to the mounting area, as shown by Noda et al.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DiLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-6983. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 6:00PM (M-F).

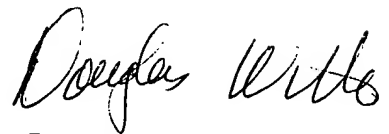
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, OLIK CHAUDHURI can be reached on (703) 308-2794. The fax phone

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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DLN
April 5, 2002



Douglas Wille
Patent Examiner